

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. These amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed, for example at paragraph 34. In addition, claim 5 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter is being added by any of the present amendments.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13-15, 17 and 19-20 are patentable over Todokoro I (US 5,939,720, hereinafter, "Todokoro I").

Claim 1, as amended, recites *inter alia* controlling a division of the low-energy and high-energy electrons between the multiple in-lens detectors and the inner lens detector assembly by modifying the substantial electrostatic field and modifying a distance between the column and the object. At least this feature of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Todokoro I.

For example, even if Todokoro I were to teach controlling a division of electrons between a lower detector assembly (including secondary electron multipliers 14 and 41) and an upper detector assembly (including secondary electron multipliers 65 and 70) by varying the acceleration voltage (see, e.g., *Todokoro I*, 15:17-55), Todokoro I is silent as to controlling same by modifying a distance between the column and the object. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Todokoro I. Because claim 13 recites features similar to those recited in claim 1, claim 13 and its dependent claims are likewise patentable over Todokoro I.

Claims 10-11 are patentable over Todokoro I in view of Todokoro et al. (US 6,084,238, hereinafter "Todokoro II").

Todokoro II is cited for teaching various features of the dependent claims. Even if this is so, Todokoro II fails to cure the above-mentioned deficiencies of Todokoro I with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims (including claims 10-11) remain patentable over Todokoro I, even in view of Todokoro II.

Claims 4, 12 and 21 are patentable over Todokoro I in view of Todokoro et al. (US 6,635,873, hereinafter "Todokoro III").

Todokoro III is cited for teaching various features of the dependent claims. Even if this is so, Todokoro III fails to cure the above-mentioned deficiencies of Todokoro I with respect to claims 1 and 13. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims (including claims 4 and 12) and

claim 13 and its dependent claims (including claim 21) remain patentable over Todokoro I, even in view of Todokoro III.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the present claims are patentable over the cited references. If there are any additional charges due in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Tarek N. Fahmi/

Tarek N. Fahmi

Rcg. No. 41,402

PO Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Willis Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Tel.: (650) 798-0320